

Mr. LONGLEY. Mr. Speaker, the bitter defenders of the old order have spent a lot of time complaining, even whining, about the legislation in our Contract With America. But they seem to have forgotten that since January 4, our legislation has continuously received bipartisan support—in fact, the average vote for contract legislation in the House has been 332 to 96. On an average, over 100 Democrats have voted “yes” on the Contract With America.

Mr. Speaker, I have faith that the American people are going to look past all the distortions and rhetoric and see that the Republican majority has kept the promises we made, and we will continue to work hard to change Washington—to make the Federal Government smaller, less costly, less intrusive, and more efficient for the American people. It truly is a new day here in Washington, DC.

IS THEIR CONTRACT GOOD FOR AMERICA? NO

(Mr. WILLIAMS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WILLIAMS. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, I think the Republicans indeed do deserve recognition. They said they would bring the contract to the floor of this House and attempt to pass it, and indeed they did, and I think that the Democrats and Americans have to recognize them for that. But the real question for all Americans is:

“What’s in the contract? What did they pass?”

Mr. Speaker, I think much of what was in the contract is, by definition, extremism. For example, one element to the contract which passed this House with Republican votes allows the Government to break down our doors, search our homes without a search warrant. One element of the contract allows illegal immigrants who commit crimes in this country and are convicted of a felony not to go to prison in America, but to be sent back home to their own country, presumably so they can reenter illegally here.

Mr. Speaker, last night we passed another element of the contract which takes America back to trickle-down economics, a pittance for middle-income people, huge tax breaks for the wealthy.

Did they pass he contract?

Yes.

Is he contract good for America?

No, it is extremism.

CONTRACT AND TAXES

(Mr. KNOLLENBERG asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. KNOLLENBERG. Mr. Speaker, yesterday the Republican Party passed the last hurdle in the Contract With America by passing our tax reduction package.

We provide families a \$500 per child tax credit, we slash the capital gains tax rate, repeal the Clinton tax increase on Social Security benefits, double an investment deduction for small businesses, provide a tax credit to families who adopt children, and create the American dream savings account to encourage saving.

In the last 92 days we kept our word with the American people. We changed Washington and we have worked hard to preserve the American Dream for America’s children. The contract is only the first step, however, toward moving power and money out of Washington and returning it to the people. Henry Ford said that, “What’s right about America is that although we have a mess of problems, we have great capacity—intellectual and resources—to do something about them.”

I am proud to say that this new Congress is changing America and helping to restore its greatness.

REPUBLICAN EXTREMISTS HAVE GONE TOO FAR

(Mr. BROWN of Ohio asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the last 2 weeks have seen the most disturbing developments of the Republican Contract on America, the worst example of Republican extremists simply going too far. Thirty-five million dollars in tax breaks for Australian-born Rupert Murdoch, \$3.6 billion for American billionaires that have renounced their citizenship, \$3.6 billion in tax cuts, tax cuts for people making \$200,000 a year and calling them middle class taxpayers, and the elimination of a major corporate tax, all at the same time while cutting school lunches for America’s school children, while cutting student loans for America’s middle class families, while cutting the Summer Jobs Program.

Let me make sure I understand this. We have Rupert Murdoch, a billionaire from Australia, becoming an American citizen so he can buy Fox network, buy a big book publishing house and negotiate book deals with American politicians. Then we have a bunch of American billionaires renouncing their U.S. citizenship so they can get a tax break.

Mr. Speaker, in the last 3 months Republican extremists have gone too far.

H.R. 1258 TO ENHANCE SMALL BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

(Mr. FLAKE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. FLAKE. Last week, Mr. Speaker, I introduced legislation to enhance funding opportunities to America’s small businesses. H.R. 1258, the Small Business Capital Access Act of 1995, is designed to raise the lending cap from \$500,000 to \$750,000 for the Small Business Administration’s [SBA] 7(a) Loan

Program. H.R. 1258, with significant support from lending institutions, accomplishes the goal of raising the lending limits of the program without further Federal expenditure.

Mr. Speaker, raising the lending limits of the 7(a) Program, the Federal Government is demonstrating its commitment to fostering small business growth by enabling them to more easily overcome startup impediments. These impediments are often a result of undercapitalization. The \$250,000 increase is accomplished without greater financial exposure to the taxpayer. This is made possible by lowering the Federal subsidy to lenders who participate in the SBA program and reprogramming those funds to guarantee a significant portion of those higher-capped loans. The SBA currently extends a 2.74-percent subsidy for 7(a) loans in fiscal year 1995. My proposal lowers the subsidy to 1.65-percent, thereby allowing more funds to actually guarantee 7(a) loans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to please join with me in supporting H.R. 1258 so we can rebuild America through the small business sector.

LAST NIGHT’S TAX-CUT BILL CUTS \$5 BILLION FROM CRIME TRUST FUND

(Mr. STUPAK asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. STUPAK. Mr. Speaker, even though I am a Democrat, I must say congratulations to my friends, the Republicans on this side of the aisle, for passing a Contract on America. They showed a lot of discipline in doing so, I say, “Congratulations,” but, being a former police officer, as I was for 13 years, I say, “I admire the discipline you showed on the contract, but please use that discipline when you now try to pay for your contract.”

As my colleagues know, the tax cut bill that was passed last night, in there they took \$5 billion from the crime trust fund to start paying for these cuts. That \$30 billion in the crime trust fund is going to pay for more prisons, is going to pay for local grants back to our districts.

I say to my colleagues, “You’ve already reneged on your first promise. You’ve cut \$5 billion out of the crime trust fund to start paying for this new tax bill that you put forth, so what I ask you to do in your disciplined ways is quit spending the same money over, and over, and over again. Don’t go back to your good old days of spend, spend, spend without the money being there.”

So, again, congratulations, but let us be cautious on how we are spending that money three times over.

ABOUT LAST NIGHT

(Mr. LEWIS of Georgia asked and was given permission to address the House